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**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

09/814,071

Examiner

Aaron C. Perez-Daple

Applicant(s)

SUGIMOTO ET AL.

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**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amendment filed 12/7/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-14.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 22 March 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
    1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date 4/29/05
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

N. E. Hadley

### EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Randall Beckers (Reg. 30,358) on 4/29/05.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the Claims:

1. (currently amended) A schedule execution managing apparatus managing execution of one or more schedules, comprising:

a planned start time setting unit setting a planned start time of a schedule which is to be determined by specifying a base time name having a corresponding base time and an offset from said base time, where said base time name, base time and offset are stored in a storage responsive  
~~to a base time name using a base time and an offset from the base time;~~

a planned start time storing unit storing the set planned start time; and

a schedule execution controlling unit controlling an execution start of the schedule by referencing contents stored in said planned start time storing unit, wherein the base time having a base time name and said schedule execution managing apparatus managing execution of one or more schedules using one or more base time names.

2. (currently amended) A schedule execution managing apparatus managing execution of one or more schedules, comprising:

a planned start time setting unit setting a planned start time of a schedule which is to be determined by specifying a base time name having a corresponding base time and an offset from said base time, where said base time name, base time and offset are stored in a storage responsive  
~~to a base time name using a base time and an offset from the base time;~~

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a planned start time storing unit storing the set planned start time; and

a schedule execution controlling unit controlling an execution start of the schedule by referencing contents stored in said planned start time storing unit, wherein the base time having a base time name and said schedule execution managing apparatus managing execution of one or more schedules using one or more base time names; and

a planned start time changing unit changing a planned start time of a schedule when it is determined that the schedule uses a base time name, the changing using the changed base time and the offset, when the base time is changed, and rewriting the planned start time stored in said planned start time storing unit.

3. (currently amended) A schedule execution managing apparatus managing execution of a plurality of schedules, comprising:

a planned start time setting unit setting a first planned start time for a first schedule by specifying a first offset from an end time of a second schedule where a start time of the second schedule is specified by a base time name having a corresponding base time and a second offset from said base time, where said base time name, base time and offsets are stored in a storage and both of a second planned start time and an offset time for a second schedule, the second schedule having a dependency on the first schedule;

a planned start time storing unit storing the first planned start time, the second planned start time and the offset time;

a schedule execution control unit controlling an execution start of the first and second schedules by referencing contents stored in said planned start time storing unit;

a detecting unit detecting an end time of the execution of the first schedule; and

a planned start time updating unit updating the second planned start time stored in said planned start time storing unit based on the detected end time and the stored offset time.

4. (currently amended) A schedule execution managing apparatus managing execution of one or more schedules, comprising:

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a planned start time setting unit setting a first planned start time for a first schedule by specifying a first offset from an end time of a second schedule where a start time of the second schedule is specified by a base time name having a corresponding base time and a second offset from said base time, where said base time name, base time and offsets are stored in a storage~~which is to be determined responsive to a base time name using an end time of a second schedule, and an offset from the end time, wherein the first schedule having a dependency on the second schedule;~~

a planned start time storing unit storing the first planned start time, the second planned start time and the offset time; and

a schedule execution control unit controlling an execution start of the first and second schedules by referencing contents stored in said planned start time storing unit, and

a planned start time changing unit changing the planned start time of the first schedule which is determined that it has the dependency on the second schedule using the changed end time and the offset, when the end time of the second schedule is changed, and rewriting the planned start time stored in said planned start time storing unit.

5. (currently amended) A schedule execution managing method managing execution of one or more schedules, comprising:

setting a planned start time of a schedule which is to be determined by specifying a base time name having a corresponding base time and an offset from said base time, where said base time name, base time and offset are stored in a storage~~responsive to a base time name using a base time and an offset from the base time;~~

storing the set planned start time; and

controlling an execution start of the schedule by referencing the stored planned start time, wherein the base time having a base time name and said schedule execution managing method managing execution of one or more schedules using one or more base time names.

6. (currently amended) A schedule execution managing apparatus managing execution of one or more schedules, comprising: a planned start time setting unit setting a

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planned start time of a first schedule which is to be determined by specifying a first offset from an end time of a second schedule where a start time of the second schedule is specified by a base time name having a corresponding base time and a second offset from said base time, where said base time name, base time and offsets are stored in a storage responsive to a base time name using an end time of a second schedule, and an offset from the end time, wherein the first schedule having a dependency on the second schedule;

a planned start time storing unit storing the set planned start time; and

a schedule execution controlling unit controlling an execution start of the first schedule by referencing contents stored in said planned start time storing unit;

resetting a planned start time of a schedule which is determined that the schedule uses a base time name using the changed base time and the offset, when the base time is changed;

storing the reset planned start time; and controlling an execution start of the schedule by referencing the stored planned start time.

7. (currently amended) A schedule execution managing method managing execution of one or more schedules, comprising:

setting a planned start time of a first schedule which is to be determined by specifying a base time name having a corresponding base time and an offset from said base time, where said base time name, base time and offset are stored in a storage responsive to a base time name using an end time of a second schedule, and an offset from the end time, wherein the first schedule having a dependency on the second schedule;

storing the set planned start time; and

controlling an execution start of the first schedule by referencing the stored planned start time.

8. (currently amended) A schedule execution managing method managing execution of one or more schedules, comprising:

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setting a planned start time of a first schedule by specifying a first offset from an end time of a second schedule where a start time of the second schedule is specified by a base time name having a corresponding base time and a second offset from said base time, where said base time name, base time and offsets are stored in a storage using an end time of a second schedule, and an offset from the end time, wherein the first schedule having a dependency on the second schedule;

storing the set planned start time; and

controlling an execution start of the first schedule by referencing the stored planned start time; resetting the planned start time of the first schedule which is determined that it has the dependency on the second schedule using the end time after change and the offset from the end time, when the end time of the second schedule is changed;

storing the reset planned start time; and

controlling an execution start of the first schedule by referencing the stored planned start time.

9. (currently amended) A computer- readable storage medium on which is recorded a program for causing a computer to execute a process for managing execution of one more schedules, said process comprising:

setting a planned start time of a schedule which is to be determined by specifying a base time name having a corresponding base time and an offset from said base time, where said base time name, base time and offset are stored in a storage responsive to a base time name using a base time and an offset from the base time;

storing the set planned start time; controlling an execution start. of the schedule by referencing the stored planned start time, wherein the base time having a base time name and said process for managing execution of one or more schedules using one or more base time names;

resetting a planned start time of a schedule which is determined that is uses a base time name using the changed base time and the offset, when the base time is changed;

storing the reset planned start time; and

controlling an execution start of the schedule by referencing the stored planned start time, so that event schedules are changed only when the planned start time requires changes.

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10. (currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium on which is recorded a program for causing a computer to execute a process for managing execution of one or more schedules, said process comprising:

setting a planned start time of a first schedule which is to be determined by specifying a first offset from an end time of a second schedule where a start time of the second schedule is specified by a base time name having a corresponding base time and a second offset from said base time, where said base time name, base time and offsets are stored in a storage responsive to a base time name using an end time of a second schedule, and an offset from the end time, wherein the first schedule having a dependency on the second schedule;

storing the set planned start time;

controlling an execution start of the first schedule by referencing the stored planned start time;

resetting the planned start time of the first schedule which is determined that it has the dependency on the second schedule using the end time after change and the offset from the end time, when the end time of the second schedule is changed;

storing the reset planned start time; and

controlling an execution start of the first schedule by referencing the stored planned start time, so that event schedules are changed only when the planned start time requires changes.

11. (currently amended) A schedule execution managing apparatus managing execution of one or more schedules, comprising:

planned start time setting means for setting a planned start time of a schedule which is to be determined by specifying a base time name having a corresponding base time and an offset from said base time, where said base time name, base time and offset are stored in a storage responsive to a base time name using a base time and an offset from the base time;

planned start time storing means for storing the set planned start time;

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schedule execution controlling means for controlling an execution start of the schedule by referencing contents stored in said planned start time storing means, wherein the base time having a base time name and said schedule execution managing apparatus managing execution of one or more schedules using one or more base time names; and

a planned start time changing means for changing a planned start time of a schedule which is determined that it uses a base time name using the changed base time and the offset, when the base time is changed, and rewriting the planned start time stored in said planned start time storing means, so that event schedules are changed only when the planned start time requires changes.

12. (currently amended) A schedule execution managing apparatus managing execution of one or more schedules, comprising:

planned start time setting means for setting a planned start time of a first schedule which is to be determined by specifying a first offset from an end time of a second schedule where a start time of the second schedule is specified by a base time name having a corresponding base time and a second offset from said base time, where said base time name, base time and offsets are stored in a storage responsive to a base time name using an end time of a second schedule, and an offset from the end time, wherein the first schedule having a dependency on the second schedule;

planned start time storing means for storing the set planned start time;

schedule execution controlling means for controlling an execution start of the first schedule by referencing contents stored in said planned start time storing means; and

a planned start time changing means for changing the planned start time of the first schedule which is determined that it has the dependency on the second schedule using the changed end time and the offset, when the end time of the second schedule is changed, and rewriting the planned start time stored in said planned start time storing means, so that event schedules are changed only when the planned start time requires changes.

13. (currently amended) A schedule execution managing method managing execution of one or more schedules, comprising:



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setting a planned start time of a schedule by specifying a base time name having a corresponding base time and an offset from said base time, where said base time name, base time and offset are stored in a storage; responsive to a base time name, using a base time and an offset from the base time;

storing the set planned start time; and

controlling an execution start of the schedule by referencing the stored planned start time, wherein the base time having a base time name and said schedule execution managing method manages execution of one or more schedules using one or more base time names.

14. (currently amended) A schedule execution managing method managing execution of two or more schedules including a first schedule and a related second schedule, comprising:

setting a planned start time of the first schedule by specifying a base time name having a corresponding base time and an offset from said base time, where said base time name, base time and offset are stored in a storage; responsive to a base time name, using a base time and an offset from the base time;

storing the set planned start time;

updating the related second schedule responsive to the base time name; and

controlling an execution start of the first schedule by referencing the stored planned start time and controlling execution of the second schedule responsive to the updating.

### ***Reasons for Allowance***

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance. The prior art of record teaches a schedule having a schedule name and an offset from a start time. The prior art of record also teaches starting a first schedule at a time offset from the end time of a second schedule. However, the prior art of record does not teach or suggest setting a planned start time of a schedule *by specifying a base time name* having a corresponding base time and an offset

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from said base time, where said base time name, base time and offset are stored in a storage.

Therefore the present invention teaches an improved scheduling method and apparatus.


Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

### *Conclusion*

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Aaron C. Perez-Daple whose telephone number is (571) 272-3974. The examiner can normally be reached on 9am-5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Follansbee can be reached on (571) 272-3964. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

 5/12/05  
Aaron Perez-Daple

